1710
COMIC SHOP NEWS
X-MEN X OF SWORDS
MARVEL
BROOKS

Marvel Shares a Few Sworded Details

Think back on some of the best X-events in Marvel history. ***Mutant Massacre. Age of Apocalypse. Messiah Complex.*** Large-scale crossovers that shook up the mutantverse.

If you liked those, then Marvel is confident you're going to *love* ***X of Swords.*** (And just in case you weren't sure: As is the case in ***Powers of X*** or the iPhone X, the ***X*** in ***X of Swords*** is pronounced "ten," like the roman numeral.)

So what *is* ***X of Swords?*** It's a 15-part crossover event involving many of Marvel's mutant titles—and it's all masterminded by *Jonathan Hickman,* the man who reset the mutantverse last summer with ***House of X*** and ***Powers of X.*** He's continuing the ***X***-cellent tradition with this ***X***-titled series.

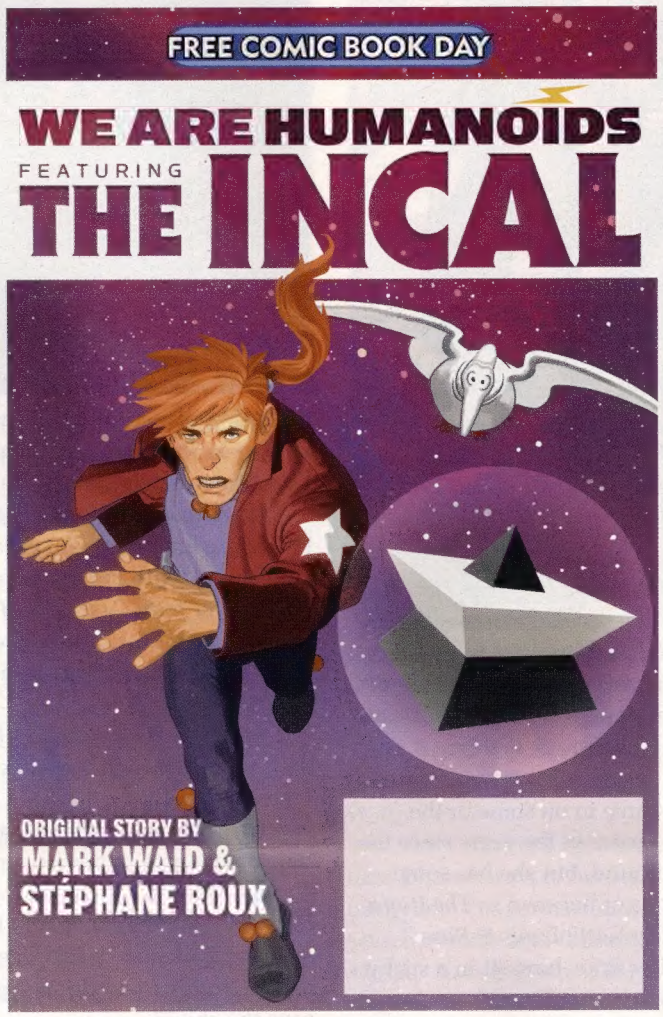
As Marvel explained, "In this sprawling saga, the new mutant nation of Krakoa faces their biggest challenge yet. Threatened by powerful forces from the unknown, ten mutants will rise up to defend their home. Arming themselves with legendary blades, both new and familiar ones from Marvel history, mutantkind will finally meet its mystical destiny. Impacting the entire X-Men franchise and setting the stage for the future of mutantkind, ***X of Swords*** will be a modern X-Men epic that both longtime and new X-Men fans dare not miss."

"One of the cool things we are able to do now, because we've established the X-line and really know where we're going, is that we're able to try some different things out," said Hickman. "***X of Swords*** will be an old-school crossover that meanders through the entire line. It's almost like chapters of a story."

Hickman's track record with Marvel's mutants has been uncanny: He took a lackluster franchise and revitalized it, pushing mutant titles to the top of Marvel's sales charts every month since ***House of X/Powers of X*** kicked off—and that track record certainly bodes well for ***X of Swords!***

Hickman told panel attendees at C2E2 that ***X of Swords*** is structured more as a 15-chapter story continuing through the books involved, rather than a more segmented traditional crossover. This means that readers who just buy random chapters based on the individual series titles won't get a full ***X of Swords*** storyline; they're going to want all 15 installments to make sense of the entire saga.

While ***X of Swords*** starts this summer, readers can get an early taste of the storyline in the pages of Marvel's ***Free Comic Book Day 2020 X-Men #1,*** available in participating comic shops on May 2nd. The lead story by *Jonathan Hickman & Pepe Larraz* is an original tale that lays the groundwork for ***X of Swords,*** while the backup story by *Tom Taylor & Iban Coello* foreshadows another upcoming tale whose details have yet to be revealed. (And remember: While the FCBD books may be free to visitors on May 2nd, every copy costs the store, so be sure to thank them for making it possible to get in on the ground floor of this new event!)



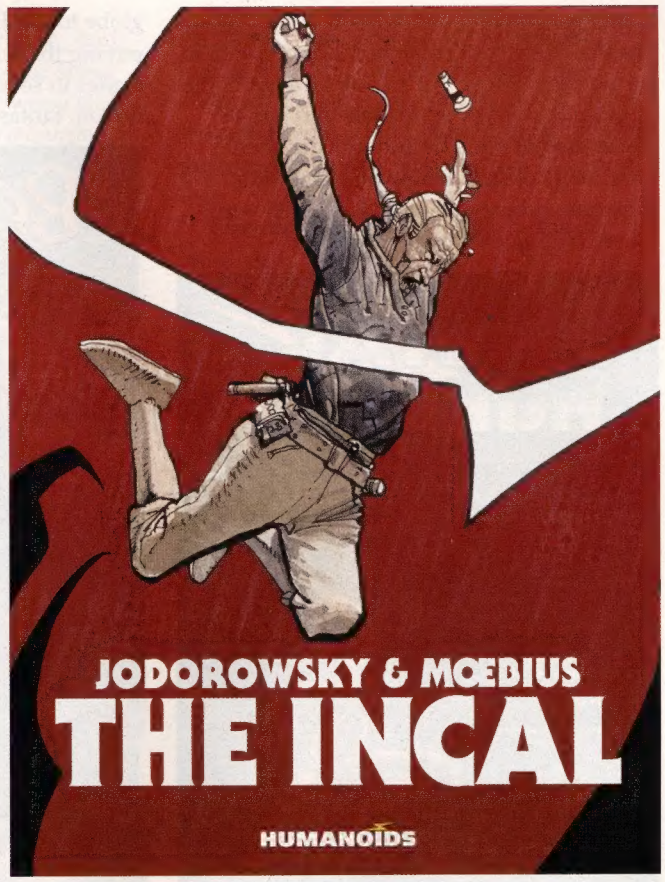
Mark Waid, Head Humanoid

Humanoids, the Los Angeles–based publisher of some of the world's most iconic and groundbreaking science fiction and fantasy graphic novels, has named Eisner Award–winning writer *Mark Waid* as its new publisher. (Waid has been involved with Humanoids since October 2018, serving as its director of creative development.)

"Humanoids is internationally renowned for its history of publishing prestigious, groundbreaking graphic novels," Humanoids CEO *Fabrice Giger* said. "With his passion for publishing, respect for the medium's past, attention to today's political and cultural landscapes, and keen eye for spotting talent, *Mark Waid* is perfectly suited to lead the Humanoids publishing team as the new publisher of Humanoids English-language efforts. We are thrilled with the work that Mark has done, and it was time to expand his responsibilities."

"*Fabrice Giger* founded Humanoids in Los Angeles in 1998 with the goal of introducing American readers to the European masterworks by creators like *[Alejandro] Jodorowsky, Mœbius, [Juan] Gimenez, and [Milo] Manara,* and these classics remain the foundation of Humanoids," Waid said. "As we look to the future, Humanoids' publishing slate will honor the legacy of those iconic books, while continuing to innovate and experiment with new publishing initiatives like Life Drawn [a new literary imprint], BIG [an all-ages imprint], and H1 [a superheroic shared-universe imprint]."

In addition, Waid is also writing ***Free Comic Book Day 2020: We Are Humanoids Featuring The Incal,*** the first original Incal story in over a decade. This brand-new tale by superstars Waid and *Stéphane Roux* serves as the perfect



introduction for new readers to discover the seminal series. The 2020 Free Comic Book Day issue also includes exclusive first looks at the new wave of projects from Humanoids and its imprints.

"Forty years ago, *Alejandro Jodorowsky & Mœbius* redefined the comics medium with their revolutionary storytelling in ***The Incal,***" Waid said. "Our Free Comic Book Day story pays tribute to that iconic science fiction epic, while introducing its characters to a new generation of readers everywhere."

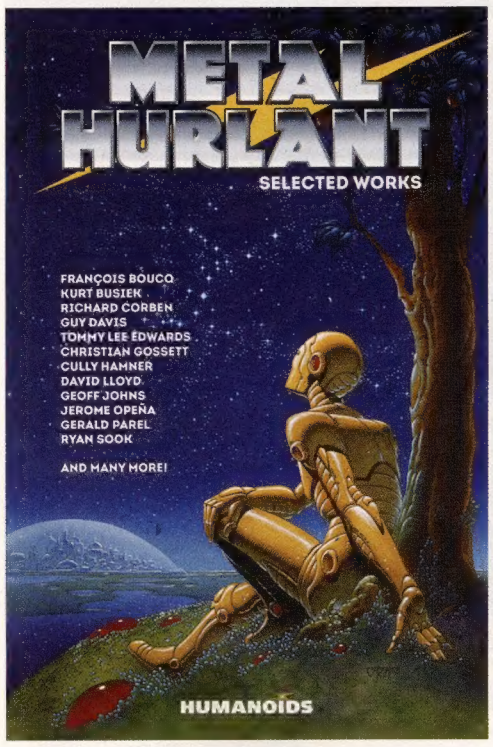
Other noteworthy projects forthcoming from Humanoids in 2020 include:

- ***Metal Hurlant Selected Works,*** featuring stories by *Geoff Johns, Kurt Busiek, Guy Davis, Jerome Opena,* and more. (March)
- ***The Seven Lives of Alejandro Jodorowsky,*** compiled and curated by *Vincent Bernière & Nicolas Tellop,* a definitive overview of his many creative ventures, including his comics writing, his passion and contribution to Tarot, his life in the theater, his rebirth as a '70s cinematic cult figure, and more. (May)
- ***The Incal 40th Anniversary TP*** (by *Alejandro Jodorowsky & Moebius),* offered with a limited-edition cover produced especially for the Free Comic Book Day promotion and a standard edition. (April)
- ***Barbarella TP,*** featuring both the original Barbarella story by *Jean-Claude Forest* and its sequel. (June)

Waid said that Humanoids has other prominent releases on the schedule for 2020, including "***Nicnevin and the Bloody Queen,*** a haunting and unsettling coming-of-age horror story by *Helen Mullane, Dom Reardon, Matthew Dow Smith, Lee Loughridge, & Jock.* We've got ***MPLS Sound*** by *Hannibal Tabu, Joseph Illidge, & Meredith Laxton...* an aspirational graphic novel about a fictional band inspired, and later guided by, *Prince* himself,

Courtesy of your friendly neighborhood comics outlet!

which was recently announced at the Apollo Theater. We've got some brilliant non-fiction on the slate. We've got a wide array of books in progress for young readers and the YA audience that we'll be announcing soon. That range of storytelling and ambition illustrates where our focus is in 2020—and where Humanoids goes from here."



Metal Heads

Heavy Metal added two new staff members in early March with the addition of *David Erwin* (formerly with Hasbro and, prior to that, executive creative director at DC) as publisher and "chief creative overlord" and *Joe Illidge* (previously editor at DC, Valiant, Lion Forge, and others) as co-managing editor (working alongside long-time editor *Ricardo Llarena).*

"Unlike the other publishers of fiction, ***Heavy Metal*** is a destination brand recognized for cutting-edge and inventive stories within the sci-fi, fantasy, and horror space," Erwin said. "It has influenced many of Hollywood's greatest filmmakers over the years, and we'll continue to be a prime source of inspiration by continuing to deliver our brand promise of great stories and art, as well as maintaining its rock-n-roll attitude of making your parents a bit uncomfortable."

"Working with the great team at ***Heavy Metal*** has been a bucket list experience!" Illidge said. "It's an honor to be part of a team dedicated to igniting the company, bringing top-notch creators from around the globe to the ***Heavy Metal*** landscape, and paving the way for a new era as the true leader in sequential storytelling for science fiction, fantasy, and horror."

Coming Comics—Dynamite in June

Stunning starlet Bettie Page has signed on to a new "tastefully sensual" fantasy film, shooting on a secluded tropical island. But when one of her cast members is murdered, everyone on the island is a suspect in ***Bettie Page #1*** (by *Karla Pacheco & Vincenzo Federici).*

Hughie fills Annie in on some of the CIA's anti-supe tactics in the years since the Boys were last around, but she has some pressing questions of her own in ***The Boys: Dear Becky #3*** (by *Garth Ennis & Russ Braun).* As Butcher finds himself in a sticky spot with the Children of Stormfront, he realizes Becky's influence is a good deal harder to escape than he'd thought.

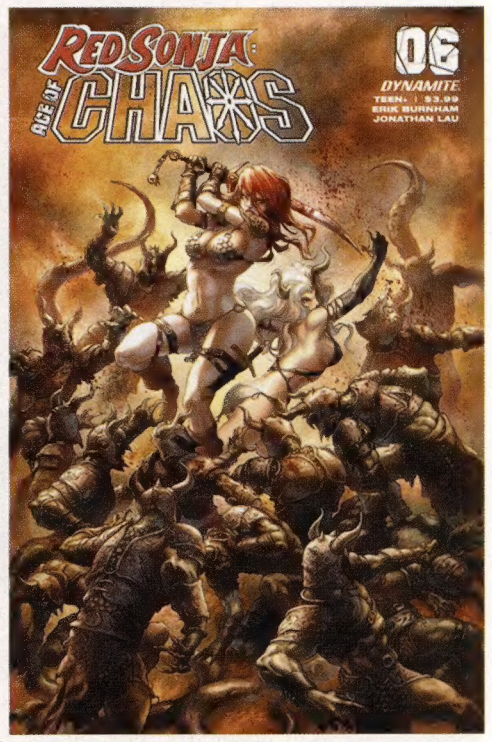
Team Ash (A guy! A gal! A dog! An imp! A skeleton! A talking chainsaw!) gotta fight every damn demon in sight (maybe invisible ones too?) in an effort to destroy The Necronomicon in ***Death to the Army of Darkness #5*** (by *Ryan Parrott & Jacob Edgar).*

Dejah awakes in a mysterious cave, on a confusing planet full of strange aliens known as "humans," in ***Dejah Thoris #7*** (by *Dan Abnett & Sebastian Piriz).*

John Cassaday's incredible artwork for Dynamite Entertainment is collected into a single work with the release of ***The Dynamite Art of John Cassaday HC***. This volume includes colored covers, sketches, inks... some seen before, others appearing in print for the first time!

The Green Hornet and Kato have met their fair share of villains over the years, but when an alien infant crashes to Earth, the two heroes must keep him safe from a whole new type of nemesis in ***The Green Hornet #1*** (by *Scott Lobdell & Anthony Marques).* Are they prepared to take on a series of dark and deadly enemies willing to stop at nothing and do whatever it takes to save the child?

Nancy Drew's hometown of River Heights is supposed to be a small, boring community. But as Frank and Joe Hardy make their way through the place, chasing a criminal known cryptically as "The Barber" —who they believe is Nancy's murderer— they quickly realize how dangerous it actually is in ***Nancy Drew and the Hardy Boys: The Death of Nancy Drew #3*** (by *Anthony Del Col & Joe Eisma).*



The power of Kulan Gath's amulet has finally been claimed by one of those who sought it—and only Red Sonja is left to stave off the end of all things in ***Red Sonja: Age of Chaos! #6*** (by *Erik Burnham & Jonathan Lau)*! It's a literal she-devil vs the She-Devil with a Sword as Sonja and Purgatori meet in pitched battle to decide the fate of time itself...

The enigmatic dark council known as The Six seeks to radicalize the peaceful vampires of Ashthorne in ***Sacred Six #2*** (by *Christopher Priest, Gabriel Ibarra, & Jae Lee)* while adversaries become unlikely allies as the crisis of missing human children threatens both human and supernatural residents alike. Lilith of Drakulon presses forward with her own mysterious agenda, recruiting the half-vampire Chastity and the all-new Draculina to help her achieve it. Meanwhile, Nyx, daughter of the mad god Chaos, hunts Lilith for revenge while Pantha forges an uneasy truce with the City of Sacred's guardian as time runs out to find the missing boys.

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Having crushed her daughter's will, Lilith of Drakulon kidnaps Vampirella's therapist and recruits Vampi's now-ex girlfriend as she escalates her win to the next level in ***Vampirella #12*** (by *Christopher Priest, Ergun Gunduz, & Geovani Timpano*)... Vampirella tells Chary of Lilith's origin, a story of the corruption of one of Drakulon's greatest heroines.

Dynamite collected editions include:

- ***John Wick Volume 1 TP,*** collecting the five-issue series.
- ***Pathfinder Volume 5: Hollow Mountain TP,*** collecting the six-issue series, along with more than 30 pages of encounters and world detail for the ***Pathfinder Roleplaying Game.***
- ***Red Sonja (2019) Volume 2: The Queen's Gambit TP,*** collecting ***Red Sonja (2019) #s 7–12*** and ***Savage Tales: A Red Sonja Halloween Special.***
- ***Vampirella/Red Sonja Volume 1: These Dark Synchronicities TP,*** collecting ***Vampirella/Red Sonja #s 1–6.***
- ***Vengeance of Vampirella Volume 1: Rebirth TP,*** collecting ***Vengeance of Vampirella #s 1–4.***

Coming Comics—Scout in June

He just wanted out, but when his old team kills his wife in front of him, an assassin and his son set out on a path of vengeance in ***Assassin & Son #2*** (by *Shad Gaspard, Marc Copani, & Eder Messiah*). Donovan Braddock is a one-man killing machine. With nothing to live for, but everything to fight for, Braddock and his son fear no one and seek revenge on the men who took everything from them.

When a mysterious wanderer comes across a mound of slaughtered goblins, she wants answers, and all signs point to Old Man Barrow. Unfortunately for him, she decides to mount her interrogation while he's knee deep in the swamp, hunting a dream hag. If there's one thing Barrow hates more than a witch, it's *two* witches... but that's just what he'll have to deal with in ***Grit #2*** (by *Brain Wickman & Kevin Castaniero*).

Francois, a stunning middle-aged woman, has developed a worsening affliction and seeks a young caretaker to keep up her lavish Creole Louisiana mansion in ***It Eats What Feeds It #1*** (by *Max Hoven, Aaron Crow, & Gabriel Lumazark*). Kenny, a teenage halfwit looking for a summer gig, stumbles into the job. Free rent, free meals, high pay, easy work, and a provocative boss... what's there for Kenny to refuse? Well, there *is* the blood-covered kitchen spilling over with raw meat and the bolt-locked steel-plated attic door he's been restricted access to...

Deep in an alien jungle, a young woman must use her keen senses, her strength, and a gem that projects a hologram of her father to discover her true origin in ***Kyrra TP*** (by *Rich Woodall & Craig Rousseau*). Left for dead on an alien planet, Kyrra was taken in and raised by a primitive tribe of demon apes. She has no memory of her previous life and has assimilated to the ways of her adopted family, yet she still looks to the stars and wonders... Where did she come from? On her 16th birthday she gets a clue to her origins and sets out for an adventure that will take her into unknown territory.

The last we saw of Metalshark Bro, dude was transformed back into a regular shark that swam off into the sunset. It was a classic revenge mission: He killed *a lot* of people, got the giant floating eyeball, ate a lot of grub, and defeated Satan's nephew. Unfortunately, this victory was short-lived. A demon hamster kidnapped his bestie, so now he's

forced out of his sharky-sabbatical to fight off Cthulhu dudes, mutant alligators, magic demons, and his own aggression in ***Metalshark Bro 2: Assault on Hamzig Island #1*** by *Bob Frantz, Kevin Cuffe, & Walter Ostlie).*

In the Lands of High Adventure, brave bands of heroes undertake dangerous quests in search of fame and fortune in ***Murder Hobo!: Broken, Beaten, & Buggered #1*** (by *Joseph Schmalke & Jason Lynch*). The exploits of these fearless explorers, who dare delve into the deepest of dungeons, will be sung about by the bards for eons. This is *not* their story. No, this is a tale of what happens when well-intentioned groups of would-be adventurers recruit the wrong kind of "hero" ... the dreaded Murder Hobos Drunk-o and Nymph-o, whose goal is to keep all the loot for themselves.

In order to protect his land and his country's children from slavery at the hands of the Ottoman Empire, a fate that he knows too well as he suffered as one of those child slaves, Vlad launches an attack at Targoviste with 24,000 knights changing the tide of the war in ***Vlad Dracul #2*** (by *Matteo Strukul & Andrea Mutti*). With morale low after this crushing defeat, Mehmet II the Conqueror reveals his secret weapon, Radu, Vlad's own brother, turning this crusade from a religious to a fratricidal war.

- ***Wretches Volume 1 TP*** collects the six-issue series by *James E. Roche & Salo Farias.*

Life in 2014 Iraq couldn't be better for 16-year-old Yasmeen as her family is able to buy a big new house. Things are looking good. Then ISIS invades Mosul. Yasmeen's Shia family barely escapes a close death while Yasmeen gets captured by terrorists who execute her uncle right before her eyes. Yasmeen is sold to an ISIS fighter as a slave and must relinquish her innocence in order to save her three new Yazidi friends who are punished with starvation for attempting to help her escape after failing to kill her captor. Two years later, Yasmeen is returned to her family in the United States. Her parents are so happy to be reunited with Yasmeen that they fail to see the state of depression that she has fallen into after two years of slavery under the ISIS terrorist regime in Mosul and the torments that she had to endure. Now faced with a new life without the luxuries that she had grown accustomed to in Iraq before ISIS, Yasmeen must learn to survive in a society that both fears and hates her and must overcome the horrors of the past in an attempt to find herself again in ***Yasmeen #1*** (by *Saif A. Ahmed & Fabiano Moscolo*).

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And because, you know, love.

CSN TOP COMICS

ALIENS ORIGINAL SCREENPLAY #1 (OF 5)

Cristiano Seixas (W); Guilherme Balbi (A)
(Dark Horse FEB200224 $3.99)

WHAT'S THE SCOOP?

En route back to Earth, the crew of the starship Snark intercepts an alien transmission. Their investigation leads them to a desolate planetoid, a crashed alien spacecraft, and a pyramidic structure of unknown origin. Then the terror begins...

WHY SHOULD YOU CARE?

Dan O'Bannon's original unfilmed screenplay for ***Aliens*** sees print at last in this comics adaptation.

BATMAN #92

James Tynion IV (W); Jorge Jimenez (A)
(DC FEB200417 $3.99)

WHAT'S THE SCOOP?

The greatest heist in history is underway in Gotham City, courtesy of the mysterious crimemaster known as the Designer! Batman knows what he needs to do—but in order to stop the plot, he must first escape the most ingenious death trap the Riddler has ever devised!

WHY SHOULD YOU CARE?

White-hot character Punchline makes her first full-story appearance in this issue—and there's a phenomenal *Stanley "Artgerm" Lau* cover to ensure that you don't overlook this landmark issue!

BLACK WIDOW #1

Kelly Thompson (W); Elena Casagrande (A)
(Marvel FEB200823 $3.99)

WHAT'S THE SCOOP?

Natasha Romanoff has been a spy almost as long as she's been alive. And she's never stopped running, whether she was working for the good guys or the bad. But Natasha's world is about to be upended. Beyond San Francisco's Golden Gate lies a mystery that only the Marvel Universe's greatest spy can solve.

WHY SHOULD YOU CARE?

With a long-overdue *Black Widow* film on the way, there'll be a lot of potential readers looking for a comic with the same attitude as the film—and they'll find it right here!

BUFFY: EVERY GENERATION #1

Various (W/A)
(Boom! FEB201295 $7.99)

WHAT'S THE SCOOP?

Witness the secret origins of some of the most important Slayers in history... and the first appearance of a new character with a familiar face who will change the way you look at Buffy and everything about her world.

WHY SHOULD YOU CARE?

Boom! is describing this mysterious new addition to the cast as "the most important new character in over 20 years"—and that makes this one a must-have for *Buffy* fans.

CATWOMAN 80TH ANNIVERSARY 100-PAGE SUPER SPECTACULAR #1

Various (W/A)
(DC FEB200402 $9.99)

WHAT'S THE SCOOP?

Catwoman is turning 80 next year, and DC is celebrating with this 100-page spectacular highlighted by a tale that takes place at the end of the *Ed Brubaker/Cameron Stewart* Catwoman run, in honor of artist *Darwyn Cooke*. Plus, Catwoman is caught by an exotic cat collector, runs into a wannabe thief trying to prove himself as her apprentice, and encounters a mystery involving memorabilia from alternate continuities—and of course some Bat/Cat fun.

WHY SHOULD YOU CARE?

The restoration of the Bat/Cat relationship has renewed interest in Selina Kyle's exploits—and the creative lineup for this book should have fans feline pretty good about this celebratory special.

CHAMPIONS #1 OUT

Eve L. Ewing (W); Simone Di Meo (A)
(Marvel FEB200806 $3.99)

WHAT'S THE SCOOP?

A law is passed that goes against everything Ms Marvel, Nova, and Spider-Man founded the Champions for. But the world still needs heroes, even if the world doesn't want them right now. After Ms Marvel makes an unexpected and emotional announcement that her team won't go down without a fight, the group of teen vigilantes gather to plan their next move. But the government is hot on their trail, and there's a spy in their midst...

WHY SHOULD YOU CARE?

The story that began in ***Incoming*** and continued into ***Outlawed*** comes to fruition in this new series that explores the fate of teen heroes in a world that has banned their activities.

CHILDREN OF ATOM #1

Vita Ayala (W); Bernard Chang (A)
(Marvel FEB200860 $4.99)

WHAT'S THE SCOOP?

The X-Men with teenage sidekicks?! You got it! Don't miss the debut of the greatest teenage superhero team of all time! They've learned from the best, and they're ready to be put to the test! But who the heck are these kids, and where do they come from?

WHY SHOULD YOU CARE?

The mutant expansion continues with the addition of an all-new series and an all-new group of X-teens. (At least these kids don't have to to worry about the government trying to ban their activities, since the US has no jurisdiction in Krakoa!)

DEAD DAY #1

Ryan Parrott (W); Evgeny Bornyakov (A)
(AfterShock FEB201403 $4.99)

WHAT'S THE SCOOP?

Meet the Haskins, a seemingly normal suburban family, as they prepare for the annual macabre holiday known as "Dead Day," when the deceased rise from the grave from sunset to sunrise. Some come back to reunite with family and friends, others for one last night of debauchery, still others with only one thing on their decomposing minds: revenge.

WHY SHOULD YOU CARE?

The horror is far from cryptic in this grave new series from AfterShock.

EMPYRE #1 (OF 6)

Al Ewing & Dan Slott (W); Valerio Schiti (A)
(Marvel FEB200753 $5.99)

WHAT'S THE SCOOP?

The Kree and the Skrulls have united under a new emperor... and their war fleet is on a collision course for our world. On the moon, the Avengers are ready to strike with the full power of Earth's Mightiest Heroes. Approaching from outer space, the Fantastic Four are seeking a diplomatic solution. If these two teams can't work together to save the day, things can only get worse...

WHY SHOULD YOU CARE?

Marvel's big cosmic event for 2020 picks up where ***Incoming's*** murder mystery left off, pitting the Earth's heroes against the combined might of the Kree and the Skrulls.

S: APRIL

EVENT LEVIATHAN: CHECKMATE #1 (OF 6)

Brian Bendis (W); Alex Maleev (A)
(DC FEB200412 $3.99)

WHAT'S THE SCOOP?

Leviathan has agents and acolytes all over the world—but what is the secret behind its power? The planet's last, best hope to infiltrate Leviathan may be a motley collection of spymasters, now teamed up to try to take back the world that was stolen from under us all! Green Arrow, the Question, Talia al Ghul, and other unlikely allies converge to tackle Leviathan as members of the new Checkmate... but who is the surprise hero behind this team?

WHY SHOULD YOU CARE?

Not only does this continue the mystery that began in ***Event Leviathan,*** but DC also promises that it will offer significant clues regarding major changes coming to the DCU.

EVERGLADE ANGELS #1

Blake Northcott & Scott Lobdell (W); Roc Upchurch (A)
(Scout FEB201962 $3.99)

WHAT'S THE SCOOP?

When a girls' softball team takes a shortcut through the Florida Everglades, they decide to have one last hurrah before college starts and they go their separate ways. When they stumble into a trap set by a murderous cult, the stage is set for a night of blood-soaked carnage... but the cult has never dealt with victims who are ready to fight back.

WHY SHOULD YOU CARE?

Everglade Angels takes the teenage victim trope and turns it upside down in a horror home run.

FAITHLESS II #1

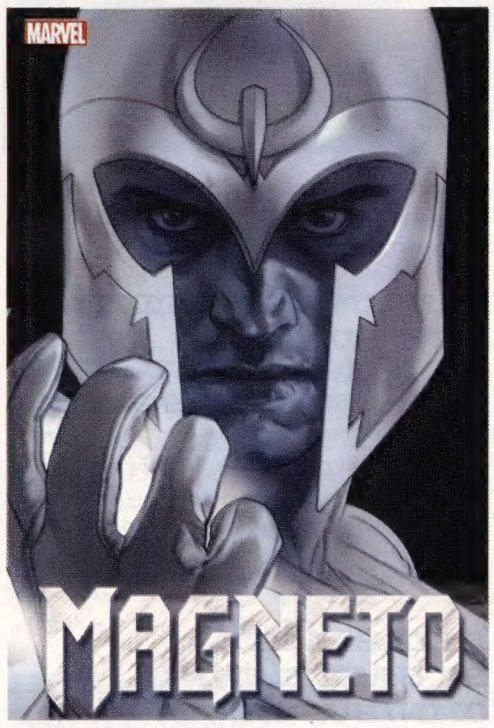
Brian Azzarello (W); Maria Llovet (A)
(Boom FEB201291 $3.99)

WHAT'S THE SCOOP?

Faith and her lovers, Louis (aka the Devil) and Poppy (his daughter), bring magic and chaos to the streets of Italy in this sequel to last year's best-selling erotic thriller. Turin, known as the epicenter of black magic, is also a place of high fashion, art, and literature. Now, Faith is in the center of it all—and with that, her own power grows. But any power comes with a price...

WHY SHOULD YOU CARE?

Sex, power, magic, death—it's all here in this compelling (and very mature) series that picks up where ***Faithless*** left off.



GIANT-SIZE X-MEN: MAGNETO #1

Jonathan Hickman (W); Ben Oliver (A)
(Marvel FEB200889 $4.99)

WHAT'S THE SCOOP?

Krakoa may be only for mutants, but mutants still need to deal with the human world around them. Krakoan ambassador (and master of magnetism) Magneto has a plan for that...

WHY SHOULD YOU CARE?

Jonathan Hickman continues his series of oneshots spotlighting high-profile mutants and featuring art by high-profile illustrators.

JOKER 80TH ANNIVERSARY 100- PAGE SUPER SPECTACULAR #1

Various (W/A)
(DC FEB200392 $9.99)

WHAT'S THE SCOOP?

The Clown Prince of Crime celebrates 80 years of chaos in this special oneshot! The stories feature a range of terror and anarchy, showing how Joker has affected Gotham City, from the police to Arkham Asylum, from the local underworld to the Dark Knight and his allies! And the highlight is the origin of the fan-favorite villain Punchline!

WHY SHOULD YOU CARE?

A 100-page spectacular of original Joker tales is plenty of reason to care—but the inclusion of Punchline's origin makes this a can't-miss event!

NAILBITER RETURNS #1

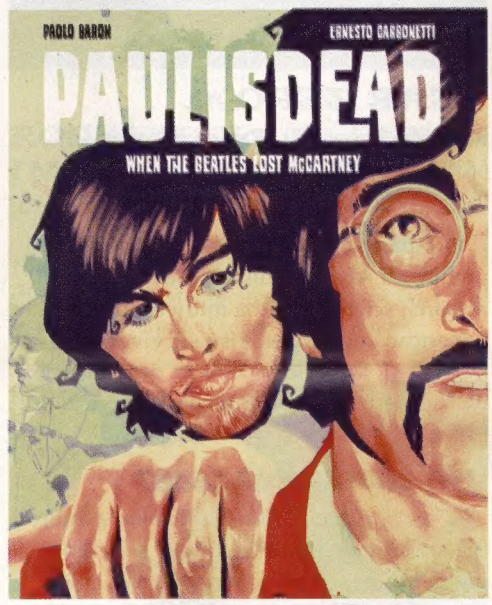
Joshua Williamson (W); Mike Henderson (A)
(Image FEB200066 $3.99)

WHAT'S THE SCOOP?

Sixteen of the world's worst serial killers were all born in the same small town—but Agent Finch and Sheriff Crane solved and buried that mystery, didn't they? Now violent copycat murders imitating the infamous Buckaroo Butchers have begun in Portland, Oregon—and if Finch wants the killings to stop, he'll have to team up with the daughter of the Nailbiter himself!

WHY SHOULD YOU CARE?

The horrifying suspense saga returns with an all-new serial killer mystery—and an extra-length first issue at no extra cost!



PAUL IS DEAD OGN

Paolo Baron (W); Ernesto Carbonetti (A)
(Image FEB200089 $16.99)

WHAT'S THE SCOOP?

November 1966. London. *John Lennon* can't take his eyes off the photo of a car in flames with *Paul McCartney's* body inside. His friend is no longer here, and that means the Beatles are no longer here either. But John wants to know the truth, and with George and Ringo, he will begin to re-examine the final hours of Paul's life...

WHY SHOULD YOU CARE?

One of rock's most bizarre musical conspiracy theories serves as the basis for this compelling graphic novel. *Paul is dead, man... don't miss it, miss it, miss it.*

POWER PACK #1 (OF 5) OUT

Ryan North (W); Nico Leon (A)
(Marvel FEB200813 $3.99)

WHAT'S THE SCOOP?

Katie, Julie, Jack, and Alex Power have been superheroing since they were learning to tie their own shoes. It's been ages since they fought side by side as a family, but a special occasion—and an old grudge—is about to put the gang back together. There's just one teeny tiny hiccup: a brand-new law restricting underage superheroes!

WHY SHOULD YOU CARE?

Is there a place for the Power Pack in a world that has banned teen superheroes? We're about to find out!

RED NAILS #1

Regis Hautiere (W); Olivier Vatine & Didier Cassegrain (A)
(Ablaze FEB201343 $3.99)

WHAT'S THE SCOOP?

Conan finds himself in the Darfar region, whose territory is almost entirely covered by a huge forest. Here he pledges himself a mercenary, promising his sword to the highest bidder, fighting alongside fellow mercenary and fierce female warrior Valeria as they enter a strange fortified city, apparently deserted... but the duo will quickly discover that the citadel hides a heavy secret.

WHY SHOULD YOU CARE?

These English language translations of French graphic novels present uncensored adaptations of *Robert E. Howard's* Conan tales, just as Howard originally told them.

SLEEPING BEAUTIES #1 (OF 10)

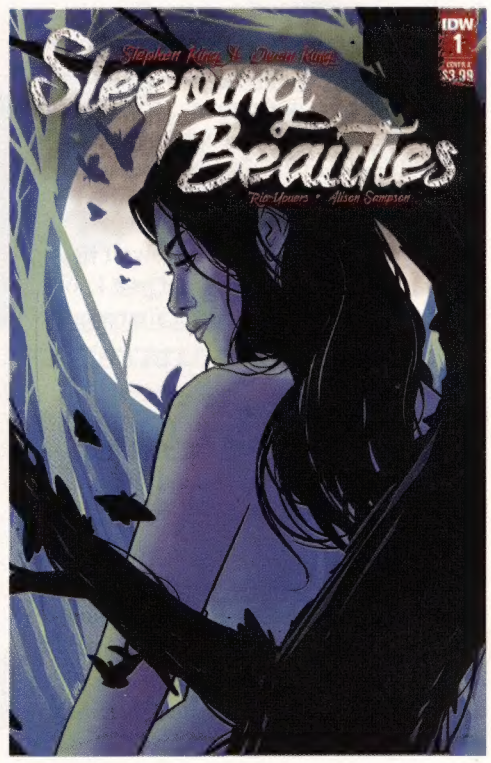
Rio Youers (based on the novel by Stephen & Owen King) (W); Alison Sampson (A)
(IDW FEB200607 $3.99)

WHAT'S THE SCOOP?

A strange sleeping sickness, known as Aurora, has fallen over the world, and strangest of all, it affects only women. In the small town of Dooling, a mysterious woman has walked out of the woods; she calls herself Eve and leaves a trail of carnage behind her. More mysterious: She's the only woman *not* falling asleep.

WHY SHOULD YOU CARE?

The best-selling novel by *Stephen King* and his son *Owen King* comes to comics with a script by acclaimed horror novelist *Rio Youers.*



STAR WARS: DOCTOR APHRA #1

Alyssa Wong (W); Marika Cresta (A)

(Marvel FEB201023 $3.99)

WHAT'S THE SCOOP?

With the Rebel Alliance back on the run after their defeat at the Battle of Hoth, it's never been a more dangerous time for outlaws, scoundrels, and the errant rogue archaeologist to make their way in the galaxy. But after a string of bad luck and near escapes, Doctor Aphra is back on the job, lured by the promise of the score of a lifetime.

WHY SHOULD YOU CARE?

Doctor Aphra is back in action, with her very own crew of treasure hunters... and what a crew it is!

WEREWOLF BY NIGHT #1 (OF 4)

Taboo & Benjamin Jackendoff (W); Scot Eaton (A)

(Marvel FEB200856 $3.99)

WHAT'S THE SCOOP?

A new Werewolf by Night is prowling the Southwest, but all is not as it seems! A young man, a family curse, and an unholy experiment prove a dangerous combination for a small town in Arizona. All young Jake wants is to protect his people... but who will protect him from the monster within?

WHY SHOULD YOU CARE?

Marvel gets an all-new Werewolf by Night in this series debut (and you know about the current demand for first appearances!).

X-FACTOR #1

Leah Williams (W); David Baldeon (A)

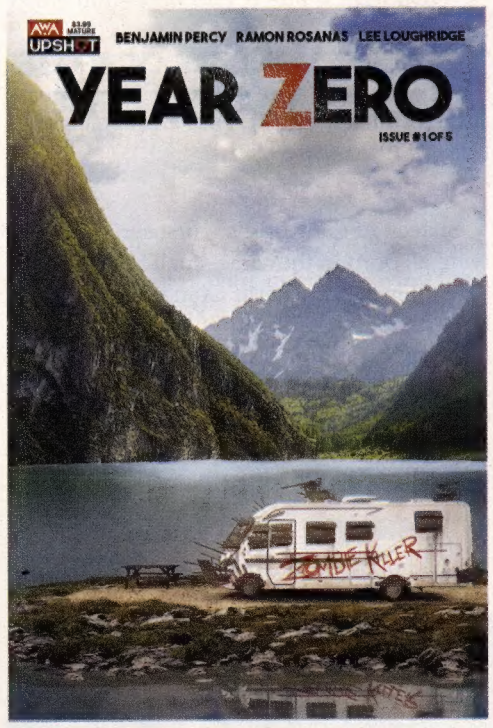
(Marvel FEB200865 $4.99)

WHAT'S THE SCOOP?

By the grace of The Five, the resurrection protocols can bring back any fallen mutant. But such a huge enterprise isn't without its problems and complications... When a mutant dies, X-Factor is there to investigate how and why to keep the rules of reincarnation.

WHY SHOULD YOU CARE?

Even death can't defeat Krakoa's mutants as Northstar, Polaris, Prodigy, Eye-boy, Daken, and Prestige must venture into the world of murder and missing persons.



YEAR ZERO #1

Benjamin Percy (W); Ramon Rosanas (A)

(AWA FEB201578 $3.99)

WHAT'S THE SCOOP?

A Japanese hitman, a Mexican street urchin, an Afghan military aide, a polar research scientist, and a midwestern American survivalist: Five survivors of a horrific global epidemic must draw upon their unique skills and deepest instincts to navigate a world of shambling dead.

WHY SHOULD YOU CARE?

Benjamin Percy & Ramon Rosanas explore the worldwide ramifications of a zombie pandemic as we are reminded once again that ultimately, *every* illness is a global problem.

Collected Cool: April's Best Reprint Editions

ABSOLUTE DAYTRIPPER HC

(DC JUL190625 $99.99)

The Eisner Award–winning Vertigo miniseries by *Fabio Moon & Gabriel Ba* is finally back in print in a new deluxe slipcased Absolute edition!

BATMAN LAST KNIGHT ON EARTH HC

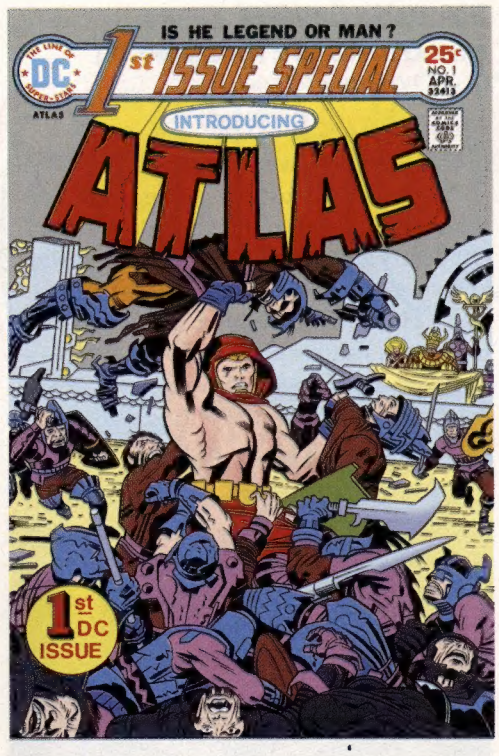
(DC JAN200629 $29.99)

From the powerhouse creative team of *Scott Snyder & Greg Capullo*, the team that reinvented Batman from the emotional depths of ***Batman: Court of Owls*** to the epic power of ***Dark Nights: Metal***, DC presents what could be the last Batman story ever told...

DC FIRST ISSUE SPECIAL HC

(DC JAN200647 $39.99)

This short-lived 1970s series offered one fascinating concept after another, from hits like Manhunter to almost forgotten concepts like



Atlas, from well-known characters like the New Gods and Doctor Fate to the virtually unknown Dingbats of Danger Street.

FAMOUS FIRST EDITION: NEW FUN #1 HC

(DC NOV190556 $19.99)

In celebration of its 85th anniversary, DC Comics reprints for the very first time its first-ever published comic book, ***New Fun #1***, along with essays by comics historian *Roy Thomas* and *Nicky Wheeler-Nicholson*, granddaughter of DC founder and first publisher *Major Malcolm Wheeler-Nicholson*.

HELLBLAZER BY GARTH ENNIS OMNIBUS HC

(DC AUG190663 $150.00)

Before ***Preacher***, Garth Ennis became a sensation with his acclaimed tales from ***Hellblazer***, collected here in omnibus format!

JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA: A CELEBRATION OF 60 YEARS HC

(DC DEC190574 $29.99)

This volume includes pivotal moments such as "Crisis on Earth-Three," the formation of Justice League International, the debut of the 1990s ***JLA*** series, the team's New 52 origin, and more!

MORBIUS: LIVING VAMPIRE OMNIBUS HC

(Marvel NOV190952 $100.00)

From his beginnings in ***Amazing Spider-Man #s 101–102*** to his run in ***Fear #s 20–31*** to his many guest appearances, this volume collects every early Morbius appearance in one massive volume.

PARKER MARTINI EDITION HC SLIPCASE VOL 1

(IDW NOV190719 $99.99)

This oversized 9"x13" volume contains the first two *Darwyn Cooke* adaptations of *Richard Stark* novels, along with shorter works. The adaptations are complemented with copious illustrations by Darwyn and a long- form discussion on Parker and *Donald Westlake*, featuring Darwyn, *Ed Brubaker* (acclaimed writer of ***Criminal***), and noted comics journalist and historian *Tom Spurgeon*.

ROBIN: THE BRONZE AGE OMNIBUS HC

(DC AUG190679 $125.00)

The 1970s stories of Batman's sidekick Robin, now college age, are collected for the very first time!

SENSATIONAL SHE-HULK BY BYRNE OMNIBUS HC

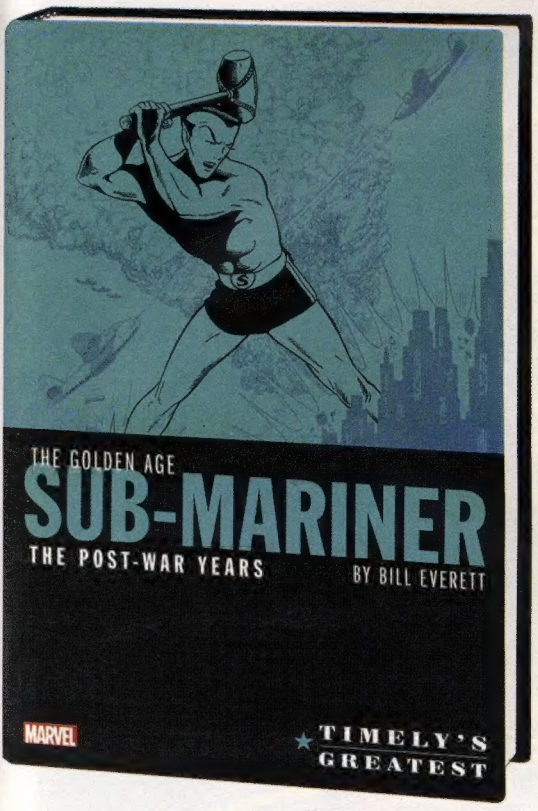
(Marvel OCT191099 $125.00)

Writer/artist *John Byrne's* outrageous fourth-wall-breaking run on ***She-Hulk*** is collected in this hefty compendium.

SWAMP THING BY NANCY A. COLLINS OMNIBUS HC

(DC MAY190513 $125.00)

After a few post–*Alan Moore* stumbles, DC got ***Swamp Thing*** back on track with the addition of award-winning horror novelist *Nancy Collins* as writer. Now her entire groundbreaking run is compiled in a single volume.



TIMELY'S SUB-MARINER EVERETT POST-WAR OMNIBUS HC

(Marvel OCT191094 $125.00)

The end of WWII brought the return of *Bill Everett* to the pages of ***Sub-Mariner.*** His entire post-war run is assembled in this Golden Age omnibus—and most of these tales haven't seen print in the past 70 years!

WHAT IF? CLASSIC COMPLETE COLLECTION TP VOL 4

(Marvel FEB201068 $39.99)

Imagine a world where the Fantastic Four never gained their powers—or one where Stephen Strange never became Master of the Mystic Arts! Consider the fates of the Thing and the Beast if they continued to mutate—or Spider-Man if Uncle Ben had lived! These stories and many more are featured in this collection of ***What If? (1977) #s 36–47.***

FYI: Must-Have Additions to Your Reference Library

ALTER EGO #164

(Two Morrows JAN202044 $9.95)

Alter Ego shines the spotlight on *Mike Friedrich,* the DC and Marvel writer who went on to jumpstart the independent comics movement with Star*Reach!

FANTASTIC PAINTINGS OF FRAZETTA HC

(Vanguard FEB202057 $39.95)

Few artists have had more impact on the field of fantasy illustration than *Frank Frazetta,* and this large coffee-table book will demonstrate why that is.

JACK KIRBY COLLECTOR #79

(Two Morrows JAN202047 $10.95)

This issue of ***The Kirby Collector*** explores how Kirby fits into the grand scheme of things, from his creations' lasting legacy to how his work tackles big issues like illiteracy.

JACK KIRBY FANTASTIC FOUR ARTISAN ED HC

(IDW NOV190727 $39.99)

Think of this as a new edition of the astonishing ***Kirby Fantastic Four Artist's Edition,*** but in a more manageable trim size and at about 25% the price of that earlier hardcover.

OVERSTREET COMIC BOOK PRICE GUIDE #1 FACSIMILE EDITION HC

(Gemstone FEB201780 $25.00)

Robert Overstreet changed comics collecting forever with the 1970 release of the first-ever price guide for back issue comics. Now you can see just how rich you'd be if you'd bought all of these books at 1970 prices!

Hot Commodities: April's Best Merchandising & Collectibles

DC DESIGNER SERIES BATMAN BY OLIVIER COIPEL STATUE

(DC SEP190615 $155.00)

This striking statue is based on Coipel's art for the cover of the ***Dark Nights: Metal*** tie-in ***Batman: Lost.***

DC GALLERY COMIC PENGUIN PVC FIGURE

(Diamond DEC192332 $49.99)

Oswald Cobblepot gets the Gallery treatment in this new diorama of the Penguin! Batman's feather-loving foe looks menacing with his umbrella piercing a Batarang, and a rocket-propelled penguin by his side.

HARLEY QUINN RED WHITE AND BLACK STATUE BY ADAM HUGHES

(DC SEP190619 $90.00)

This 7" black, white, and red statue is based on *Adam Hughes'* take on the Clown Princess of Crime as originally presented in the DC Cover Girls line.

MARVEL GALLERY COMIC WEAPON-X PVC STATUE

(Diamond DEC192341 $49.99)

This affordable PVC statue depicts Wolverine as he appeared while under the control of the Weapon X program.

ROCKETEER LEGENDS IN 3D 1/2 SCALE BUST

(Diamond DEC192336 $150.00)

This lifelike bust captures the hero of 1991's ***The Rocketeer*** in a heroic 10-inch portrait, showcasing his distinctive art-deco helmet, cast in resin, and limited to only 1000 pieces.

MARVEL PREMIER COLLECTION JUGGERNAUT STATUE

(Diamond DEC192342 $250.00)

The X-Men's most unstoppable foe is captured mid-charge in this approximately 11" resin statue designed by *Nelson X. Asencio.*

Just the Facs, Ma'am: April's Best Facsimile Editions (Ads-and-All Reprints of Key Comics)

DC SUPER STARS #17 FACSIMILE EDITION

(DC FEB200525 $4.99)

This 1977 issue features the debut of Huntress, the untold origin of Green Arrow, and an early adventure of the Legion of Super-Heroes.

MARVEL FANFARE #10 FACSIMILE EDITION

(Marvel FEB200832 $3.99)

A classic Black Widow tale by *George Perez* returns as a facsimile edition.